



AMERICAS

ING US LEGAL SERVICES

January 16, 2002

Ms. Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
Suite 1200
601 D Street NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I'm sending this letter to voice my opinion as a concerned member of our nation's business community. Throughout my professional career, I have learned to greatly appreciate and value the significance of an open market and a level playing field. During these times of economic unrest, it is best to allow the free flow of trade and commerce.

In fact, it is a free and unfettered market that is ultimately the engine of growth. That is why I support the Microsoft settlement. By removing this case, Microsoft will be allowed to operate freely and provide a much-needed inflow of capital and resources to businesses across the country.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion. The settlement was the right and just outcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "William D. Fritts, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

William D. Fritts, Jr.

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Minneapolis, MN 55401

ING North America Insurance Corporation

MTC-00031314_0001

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Fax

AMERICAS

ING US Legal Services

20 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55402

To:

RENATA B. Hesse

Telephone:

Fax:

cc:

202-616-9937

From:

Bill Fritts

Telephone:

Fax: 612-342-7531

Date:

1/16/02

Re:

MICROSOFT

No. of pages (incl. cover sheet):

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